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WASHINGTON, DC – The Indiana congressional delegation today sent a letter to President Barack Obama expressing strong support for Governor Mitch Daniels' request that the administration provide Public Assistance to five counties in southern Indiana impacted by the recent severe tornadoes and storms. Yesterday the governor asked that a Major Disaster Area Declaration be declared for Clark, Jefferson, Scott, Ripley and Washington counties.

In the letter, the members state, "After surveying the damage and consulting with state and local government officials, it is clear the recovery is beyond the combined capabilities and resources of the State of Indiana.

"Governor Daniels is requesting federal public assistance for Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, and Washington counties. These counties in particular need heightened assistance to cover the cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings, and utilities."

The full text of the letter follows:

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States

The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support for Governor Mitch Daniels' request for federal public assistance for five counties in the State of Indiana that were especially devastated following the tornadoes and severe storms that hit Southern Indiana from February 29 to March 3, 2012.

The disastrous weather caused extensive damage to public and private property throughout Southern Indiana. After surveying the damage and consulting with state and local government officials, it is clear the recovery is beyond the combined capabilities and resources of the State of Indiana. Governor Daniels is requesting federal public assistance for Clark, Jefferson, Ripley, Scott, and Washington counties. These counties in particular need heightened assistance to cover the cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings, and utilities.

As we previously wrote, Hoosiers have a long history of triumphing over tragedy and believe timely federal assistance will significantly assist Indiana's recovery efforts. We respectfully request you give careful consideration to Governor Daniels' request.

Thank you for your immediate attention to our previous request and for your continued consideration of this important matter.

In service,

Richard Lugar  
United States Senator

Dan Coats  
United States Senator

Todd Young  
Member of Congress

Dan Burton  
Member of Congress

Pete Visclosky  
Member of Congress

Mike Pence  
Member of Congress

Joe Donnelly  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon  
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress

Marlin Stutzman

Member of Congress